



Building Global Health capacity for countries in WHO South-East Asia Region

Global health is defined as health issues that transcend national boundaries. This notion implies a shared global responsibility for health and is associated with actors beyond country government. In WHO South-East Asia Region (SEAR), the Regional Committee adopted a resolution in 2010 to encourage Member States to establish policies and programs for capacity building in global health of staff who would be representing their governments at high-level policy meetings, in particular, country’s delegations to the World Health Assembly (WHA), the decision-making body of WHO, attended by delegations from all 194 Member States. An assessment commissioned by the Regional Office in 2017 reveals that the efforts to organize training workshops in respective areas have yielded positive outcomes. At the same time, several challenges have been identified.

Development of Global Health Capacity Building Activities after SEAR Resolution in 2010



Action in South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO)

- Regional capacity building activities
- SEAR one voice policy

Outcomes

- Active participation at WHA
- Equal partnerships in the region
- Positive trend in the number of SEAR OneVoice
- Networking

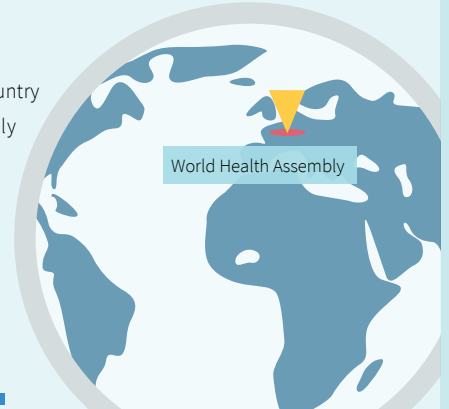


Action in SEAR Member States

- National capacity building activities
- National global health policy

Outcomes

- Significant number of country delegations who actively contribute to WHA
- Individual negotiation capacity



Assessment on the Progress and Contributions of SEAR Resolution on Capacity Building in Global Health

SEAR Resolution in Global Health

Global health development requires intersectoral collaboration and capacity of government actors in multiple disciplines including public health intelligence and diplomacy. The 2010 SEAR resolution emphasizes the need for strengthening officials' skills to actively participate in global health issues, by organizing relevant training courses. It urges Member States to support an adequate number of competent members of a delegation, preferably those who attend capacity building programs on global health, to represent the national and regional views at the World Health Assembly (WHA) and other global health policy meetings.



RESOLUTION
OF THE
WHO REGION COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

1. URGES Member States:

- (1) to establish policies and programmes for capacity building in global health of concerned staff who would be representing their respective governments at high-level policy and programme meetings, by strengthening their skills to actively contribute and participate in global health issues;
- (2) to organize, with the support of the Regional Office, regional training courses and capacity-building on global health on a rotational basis;
- (3) to support and facilitate, as far as possible, an adequate number of competent members of a delegation, preferably those who attended regional training courses and related capacity-building programmes on global health, to represent the national and regional views at all sessions of the World Health Assembly and at similar global policy meetings and forums; and

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (1) to provide support to Member States in organizing regional training courses and related capacity-building programmes on global health on a continuous basis;
- (2) to report to the Sixty-fifth Session of the Regional Committee in 2012 on the progress made in implementing this resolution; and
- (3) to conduct assessment of five-year experiences (2011-2015) on capacity building in global health in the Region in 2015, and report to the Sixty-ninth Session of the Regional Committee in 2016.

Fifth meeting, 10 September 2010

About this research

Commissioned by the South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) in 2017, HITAP in collaboration with Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Mahidol University conducted an assessment on the progress and contributions of the capacity building policy introduction, as well as its enabling factors and challenges.

This study was conducted during April to August 2017. Quantitative and qualitative information was collected by employing the following approaches:

- In-depth interviews with country senior officers in charge of global health policy and SEARO senior managers on their experiences and perspectives concerning the training programs on global health and performance of the trained officials.
- Questionnaire survey to country focal points and SEARO officials on the situation and awareness of the capacity building activities
- Document review to explore collective capacity on global health in safeguarding both in-country and regional interests.

Introduction of the regional resolution: Successes and challenges

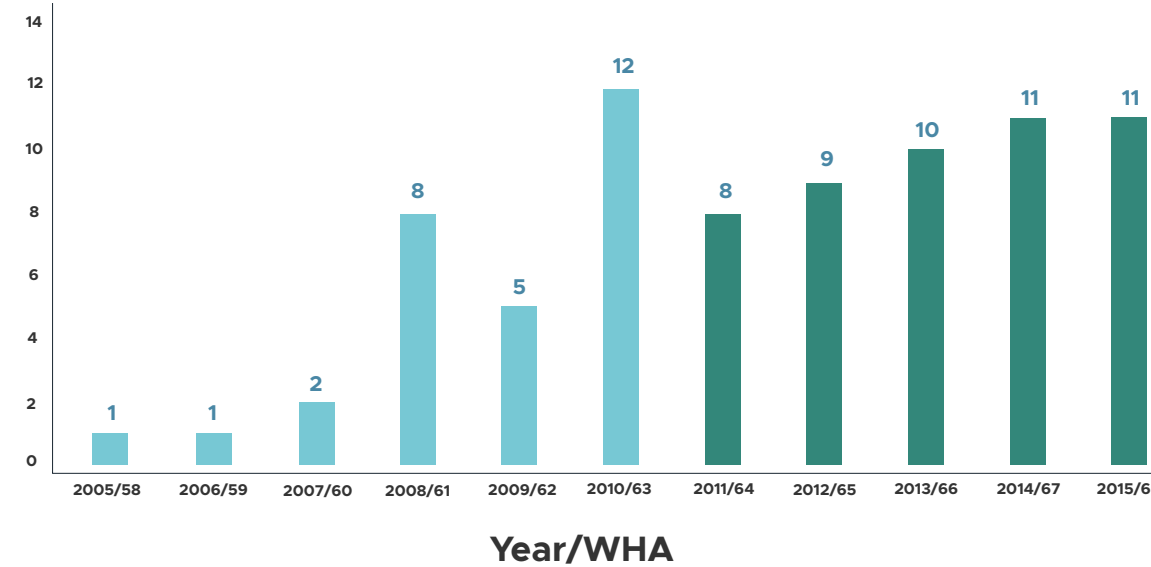
Successes

Positive trend of regional one voice (ROV)

regional mutual agreement on specific agendas

■ Before the SEA/RC63/R6 was adopted ■ After the SEA/RC63/R6 was adopted

Number of ROV interventions made by SEAR countries at the WHA during 2005-2015



Increase in significant number of country delegations who actively contribute to international policy negotiations



Closer collaborations between country representatives at the WHA



Individual officers have benefited from

- training programs
- learning at the site of global policy making (regional briefing sessions facilitated by SEARO staff.)

Challenges



Inadequate financial support for the training programs



Frequent rotation and changes in government positions of well-trained, experienced personnel in maintaining global health capacity



Lack of explicit policy framework for global health, which has resulted in the discontinuity of such activities, especially in SEARO

Strengths and weaknesses of the training programs

Strengths

- Proficiency of the resource persons
- Promote awareness and open to diverse global health issues
- Technical issues along with the art of negotiation to reach mutual agreement
- The requests of Member States are well taken into account

Weaknesses

- Lack of mechanisms to maintain engagement among the trainees including information sharing after the training workshop
- M&E for the training processes and outcomes does not exist
- Room for improvement in some aspects of capacity building

Policy Recommendations



Global Health Frameworks

SEARO and Member States establish strategic frameworks for global health including effective capacity building and M&E mechanisms at the country and regional levels.



Human Resource Policies

Country governments integrate human resource development and management in their long-term global health strategy.



Resource Mobilization and Guidelines

SEARO mobilizes resources inside and outside the region in order to assist Member States to strengthen their capacity and collaborations in global health. This includes the development of guideline for training programs and other capacity building activities.

Author



Akanittha Poonchai
Research Assistance



Songyot Pilasan
Researcher

Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program



This paper is a part of a research project entitled Assessment of Capacity Building of Member States of WHO South-East Asia Region in Global Health by Songyot Pilasant (HITAP), Dr. Sripen Tantivess (HITAP), Akanittha Poonchai (HITAP), Dr. Natthani Meemon (Mahidol University), Dr. Thammarat Marohabutr (Mahidol University), and Dr. Seung Chun Paek (Mahidol University)

Access the full article at

<http://www.hitap.net/documents/170059>



Subscribe for electronic version of HITAP policy briefs by email us at comm@hitap.net



View other policy briefs at www.hitap.net/en

Contact Information:

Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP)

6 th Floor, 6 th Building, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Tiwanon Rd., Muang, Nonthaburi 11000, Thailand

Tel : +662-590-4549, +662-590-4374-5

Fax : +662-590-4369

E-mail : hitap@hitap.net



Attribution-NonCommercial-
No Derivative 4.0 International
(CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)



HITAP



HITAP_THAI



HITAP THAI



HITAP.NET



Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program

